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PROPOSED AMENDMENTS IN SERIAL # 10/612,113

Claim 12 would be replaced by the following:

12. (Amended) A fixture for use in thermally curing a bonded abrasive grinding wheel ^{the wheel} having a substantially cylindrical peripheral surface and being fabricated from a polymeric matrix and abrasive grain, outside of a mold used for molding the wheel, the fixture comprising:
a wall portion of predetermined size and shape adapted for mechanically neutral supportive engagement with a surface of the wheel; the wall portion being adapted to maintain said supportive engagement during exposure to a range of temperatures of about 60 to 300° C utilized for thermal curing of the wheel; and the wall portion being fabricated from a polymeric material being elastically deformable to facilitate the supportive engagement;
wherein the wall portion of the fixture is adapted to engage an interior surface of the wheel without engaging an exterior surface of the wheel.

Claims 16-19 would be canceled without prejudice as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

NOTE: The above amendments would be necessary to overcome potential rejections over U.S. Patent No. 4,588,420 to Charvat and U.S. Patent No. 4,588,420 to Charvat in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,645,783 to Ansari et al. Both references were cited in the parent application. As illustrated in Figure 14, Charvat teaches an elastomeric mold liner having a portion 21 for supporting the interior surface of a grinding wheel fabricated from a polymeric matrix and abrasive grain during thermal curing within with the mold. When taken in view of Ansari et al.,

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it would have been prima facie obvious to use the mold liner of Charvat for providing mechanically neutral support for the wheel during thermal curing outside of the mold. As such, the combination of Charvat and Ansari et al. would teach the basic claimed fixture as claimed before the proposed amendments. However, there would be no suggestion to solely support the interior surface of the wheel in a thermal curing outside of the mold as claimed in the proposed amendments above and as shown in the drawings of the instant application.